SUN PROTECTION POLICY

RATIONALE

Queensland has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world. Two out of every three Queenslanders will get some form of skin cancer in their lifetime. Research suggests that at least two-thirds of all melanomas occurring in Australia could be prevented if children were protected from the sun during their first 15 years.

Skin damage, including skin cancer, is the result of cumulative exposure to the sun. Research shows that severe sunburn contributes to skin cancer and other forms of skin damage such as sunspots, blemishes and premature ageing. Most skin damage and skin cancer is therefore preventable.

Ultraviolet radiation (UVR) levels are highest during the hours that students are at school.

St Patrick’s College is aware of the need to protect the students’ skin and develop in the students Sun Smart behaviour to reduce the risk of skin damage from exposure to the sun.

POLICY

The College is committed to Sun Protection to ensure that all students attending our school are protected from the harmful effects of the sun throughout the year.

The College will strive to:

- Provide ongoing education that promotes personal responsibility for skin cancer prevention and early detection
- Provide environments that support Sun Smart practices
- Create an awareness of the need to reschedule work commitments and outdoor activities to support SunSmart practices, where possible
- Encourage students, with support from parents/guardians, to use protective apparel, sunscreen, or other items to lessen or stop the adverse effects of sun on their skin.